

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 05788 181354Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 DOTE-00 SY-05 MCT-01 AGR-01
OES-07 COME-00 /087 W
-----057904 181403Z /47/72

R 131242Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 893
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5788

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 5788 VICE 5733)

FOLLOWING RECD FROM MADRAS DATED APRIL 13, 1978 BEING RPTD
TO YOU.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRAS 597

E.O. 11652: N/
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: TAIL NADU VIOLENCE ENDS

REF: MADRAS 589

1. NO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED APRIL 12 IN THE AREA OF TAMIL NADU
AFFECTED BY VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS FROM APRIL 6-11. ACCORDING TO
GOVERNMENT SOURCES THE SITUATION IS "WELL UNDER CONTROL". ALL
MAJOR HIGHWAYS ARE REPORTED CLEAR AND TRAFFIC IS MOVING NORMALLY.
THE TOLL IN THE POLICE FIRING ROSE TO EIGHT WITH THE DEATH OF ONE
OF THOSE INJURED APRIL 9. PRESS STORIES INDICATE THAT OVER 1000
PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED DURING THE COURSE OF THE VIOLENCE. IN AN
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EARLY MORNING STATEMENT APRIL 13 THE GOTN AGRICULTURE MINISTER
ANNOUNCED THAT THOSE AFFESTED WOOULD NOT BE RELEASED AND "THE LAW
WILL TAKE ITS OWN COURSE."

2. ACCORDING TO TRAVELERS FROM SEVERAL OF THE AFFECTED AREAS,
RURAL TENSIONS WERE HIGH FOR SOME TIME BEFORE THE VIOLENCE STARTED
BECAUSE LOCAL REVENUE OFFICIALS HAD BEEN SEIZING IRRIGATION PUMPS

AND DRAFT ANIMALS FOR NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES. ALTHOUGH ONLY ONE FARMERS' ORGANIZATION WAS INVOLVED AT THE BEGINNING (SEE REFTEL) THE POLICE FIRING PROVOKED OTHER FARMERS TO JOIN IN UNOFFICIALLY.

ALTHOUGH THE SITUATION IS NOW RETURNING TO NORMAL, THE TRAVELERS ALSO TOLD US MUCH BITTERNESS REMAINS AMONG THE FARMERS INVOLVED, ESPECIALLY TOWARDS THE POLICE. THEY ALSO SAID THAT THE ARMY'S PRESENCE HAD HELPED PREVENT THE FURTHER SPREAD OF VIOLENCE AS WELL AS DEFUSE THE SITUATION.

3. MOST OBSERVERS AND LEADING NEWSPAPERS CRITICIZED THE VIOLENT AGITATION AND COMMENDED THE CHIEF MINISTER'S FIRM STAND AND QUICK ACTION. SOME EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CALLING IN THE ARMY MAY HAVE AFFECTED STATE POLICE MORALE BUT THEY AGREED THAT THE MLITARY PRESENCE HAD HAD A DETERRENT EFFECT.

MCCASKILL UNQUOTE
GOHEEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, REPORTS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, IN
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